

## COMMERCIAL PROGRESS.

## THE COTTON TRADE.

LAST YEAR'S PRICES—GRATIFYING INCREASE IN PRODUCTION—HOME CONSUMPTION INCREASING.

The price of cotton fluctuated considerably last year, and is now lower than the average rate of the year. The price of low middling in New-York at the end of each month was as follows:

Per pound. Per pound. Per pound.

January..... 22c. May..... 35c. September..... 35c.

February..... 22c. June..... 35c. October..... 35c.

March..... 22c. July..... 35c. November..... 35c.

April..... 22c. August..... 35c. December..... 35c.

The crop of the year 1871-2 was considerably smaller than that of 1870-1. In the year 1871-2 the country produced 2,974,000 bales, while in the previous year the production attained 4,374,000 bales.

The crop of the year 1872-3 will be, it is estimated, 3,621,756 bales, and according to the report of the Department of Agriculture, is distributed as follows:

No.	State.	No.	Yield per acre.	No.	State.	No.	Yield per acre.		
North Carolina.....	450,620	173	77,928,517	167,053	South Carolina.....	100,000	77,928,517		
South Carolina.....	175,625	120	2,926,000	120	Tennessee.....	120,000	2,926,000		
Georgia.....	1,000,000	120	236,000	120	Mississippi.....	120	236,000		
Florida.....	120	120	19,622,375	42,459	Alabama.....	120	236,000		
Alabama.....	120	120	20,000	120	Louisiana.....	120	236,000		
Mississippi.....	1,000,000	120	210,145,870	434,724	Texas.....	120	236,000		
Texas.....	914,269	220	201,100,180	432,457	Arkansas.....	99,312	170	117,897,040	252,542
Tennessee.....	513,605	170	201,100,180	432,457	Arkansas.....	69,312	170	117,897,040	252,542
Total.....	8,482,935	1,600,816,316	3,442,612	Tennessee.....	513,605	170	201,100,180	432,457	

The Agricultural Department report reckons the total production at 4,374,000 bales net, while our figures (3,621,756) represent bales of 442 pounds net each. This accounts for the discrepancy between the two statements.

The entire quantity of cotton in the United States, the commercial ports of Europe, and about from America and India, about the last inst. was 1,841,700 bales; the same time last year the number was 1,916,749. The stock of cotton then held by Manchester spinners at their mills was 150,000 bales; last year it was 220,000.

The smallness of the crop of 1871-2 was of course felt in the New-York trade. The receipts from Aug. 31, 1871, to Aug. 31, 1872, the cotton year, having been 734,083 bales, against 1,082,769 in the previous year.

It is gratifying to learn that the home consumption increased about 100,000 bales last year, and that in the South there is an earnest, active movement in favor of establishing cotton factories in that section.

The following table, giving the price of cotton on the 1st of January in each of the 11 last years, will prove interesting :

MIDDLEBURY, U.P. AND COTTON		MIDDLEBURY, O.R.	
(per lb.)		(per lb.)	
1862.....	16	1862.....	16
1863.....	18	1863.....	18
1864.....	18	1864.....	18
1865.....	18	1865.....	18
1866.....	19	1866.....	19
1867.....	18	1867.....	18
1868.....	18	1868.....	18
1869.....	18	1869.....	18
1870.....	18	1870.....	18
1871.....	18	1871.....	18
1872.....	18	1872.....	18
Total.....	18	Total.....	18

It will be seen that the highest price at the date named was in 1863, and the lowest in 1871.

THE WOOL TRADE OF NEW-YORK.

GRATIFYING INCREASE IN BUSINESS—MAGNITUDE OF THE WOOL INDUSTRY.

Interesting information regarding the wool industry is given in the annual circular of Mr. James Lynch, just issued. The total quantity of wool brought into New-York last year was 168,166 bales, equivalent to about half domestic and half foreign wool. The stock of wool at the principal markets on the 1st inst. compares with that at the same time last year as follows:

No.	Felts.	Pounds.
Foreign.....	109,417	48,833,668
California.....	19,078	9,037,500
Georgia.....	10,760	4,700,000
New-Orleans.....	7,738	2,959,200
Baltimore Southern.....	968	347,200
Boston Northern.....	961	298,300
From interior.....	19,663	5,932,600
Total.....	168,146	69,177,668

There were 920 bales of sheepskin in stock on the 1st inst. in this city; last year there were none.

The total quantity of wool produced last year in the United States was 160,000,000 pounds, an increase of 34,000,000 pounds on the production of the preceding year. The total quantity of wool imported at the four ports, New-York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, last year was very great, being 98,306,581 pounds, about 26,000,000 pounds more than were imported in 1871, and nearly three and a half times the quantity received in 1870.

The stock of wool in New-York on the 1st inst. was 34,906,800 pounds, against 11,17,750 pounds in stock Jan. 1, 1872, and 7,45,350 pounds Jan. 1, 1871. The New-York stock is about half domestic and half foreign wool. The stock of wool at the principal markets on the 1st inst. compares with that at the same time last year as follows:

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The magnitude of the wool industry of the United States is shown by the following statement from the census taken in June, 1870: There were then 2,454 manufacturing establishments, and the capital invested therein was \$132,389,319. They employed 119,393 workpeople, and paid \$6,057,235 during the year for labor. They consumed 173,385,059 pounds of domestic wool; \$4,881,105 pounds of foreign; \$2,473,680 pounds of cotton, and 19,574,261 pounds of shoddy.

THE STATE OF TRADE.

EUROPEAN MARKETS.

London, Jan. 31, 1872.—The market for wool, for men's suits, has averaged 10s. 6d. per lb., and for women's 10s. 4d. per lb. The market for worsted goods, for men's suits, has averaged 10s. 6d. per lb., and for women's 10s. 4d. per lb.

Paris, Jan. 31, 1872.—The market for worsted goods, for men's suits, has averaged 10s. 6d. per lb., and for women's 10s. 4d. per lb. The market for worsted goods, for men's suits, has averaged 10s. 6d. per lb., and for women's 10s. 4d. per lb.

Vienna, Jan. 31, 1872.—The market for worsted goods, for men's suits, has averaged 10s. 6d. per lb., and for women's 10s. 4d. per lb. The market for worsted goods, for men's suits, has averaged 10s. 6d. per lb., and for women's 10s. 4d. per lb.

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Stockholm, Jan. 3